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## Abstract

The invention relates to novel anhydrous ( $\beta$ ) lactitol crystals, belonging to the orthorhombic P2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub> cystal system and having unit cell constants a = 9.6 Å, b = 11.1 Å, c = 14.0 Å. The invention also relates to crystalline lactitol products containing the novel anhydrous  $\beta$  lactitol and to a process for the preparation thereof by crystallizing from an aqueous solution of lactitol.

The novel anhydrous ß lactitol is stable and nonhygroskopic and it may be used as a substitute for sugar in foodstuffs and sweets, in as well as in pharmaceutical and hygienic products.

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